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(54) Title: USE OF A BRANCHING ENZYME IN BAKING

(57) Abstract

A dough- or bread-improving composition comprising an effective amount of a branching enzyme, optionally in admixture with other enzymes, as well as the use of the composition in the preparation of dough and baked products.

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USE OF A BRANCHING ENZYME IN BAKING

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a bread-improving or dough-improving composition comprising a branching enzyme as well as to a method of preparing a dough and/or a baked product by use of the composition and/or the enzyme.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 In the bread-making process it is known to add bread-improving and/or dough-improving additives to the bread dough, the action of which, inter alia, results in improved
15 texture, volume, flavour and freshness of the bread as well as improved machinability of the dough.

 In recent years a number of enzymes have been used as dough and/or bread improving agents, in particular enzymes which act on components present in large amounts in the dough. Examples
20 of such enzymes are found within the groups of amylases, proteases and cellulases.

 Pentosanases, such as xylanases, have gained considerable importance for use in the preparation of bread and baked products; in particular, to increase the volume and improve the
25 anti-staling potential of bread and other baked products.

 For instance, EP 396 162; EP 493 850 and EP 487 122 relate to bread improvers, deep-frozen dough and a fat-free pastry mix, respectively, comprising xylanase optionally in combination with other enzymes. WO 91/18977 discloses a method of
30 preparing a pentosanase-containing preparation having increased baking activity.

 EP 687 414 discloses the use of a cyclodextrin glucanotransferase to obtain increased loaf volume and improved flavour.

35 Much attention has also focused on developing methods for the preparation of bread which is capable of staying fresh for a longer period of time and thus exhibits an increased resistance to staling. Various starch-modifying enzymes have

been suggested for use as anti-staling agents. In JP 62-79745 and JP 62-79746 thermostable β -amylases are described as useful in providing an antistaling effect to baked products, EP 412 607 describes the use of a thermostable α -1,4-
5 exoglucanase or α -1,6-endoglucanase (e.g., pullulanase, amyloglucosidases or β -amylases) as an antistaling agent, and EP 494 233 describes the use of a thermostable maltogenic α -amylase as an antistaling agent.

Branching enzyme (or 1,4- α -glucan branching enzyme,
10 EC.2.4.1.18) is a transferase which is involved in the formation of α -1,6-branches of starch and similar glucans. The enzyme has been isolated from a number of plant and microbial sources and several cloned branching enzymes have been described. More specifically, Zevenhuizen (1964,
15 Biochim. Biophys. Acta 81, 608-611) discloses a branching enzyme isolated from *Arthrobacter globiformis*; US 4,454,161, a branching enzyme from *Bacillus megaterium*; Walker and Builder (1977, Eur. J. Biochem. 20, 246-253), a branching enzyme from *Streptococcus mitis*; Steiner and Preiss (1977, J.
20 Bacteriol. 129, 246-253), a branching enzyme from *Salmonella typhimurium*; Fredrick, J. (1978, Thermal Biol. 3, 1-4), a branching enzyme from the alga *Cyanidium caldarium*. Boyer and Preiss (1977, Biochemistry, 16, 3693-3699), a branching enzyme from *Escherichia coli*; Baecker, et al. (1986, J. Biol.
25 Chem. 261, 8738-8743), a gene encoding an *E. coli* branching enzyme; Kiel, J.A.K.W., et al., (1992, J. DNA Sequencing and mapping, 3, 221-232), a gene encoding a *Bacillus caldolyticus* branching enzyme; Takata, H., et al. (1994, Appl. Environm. Microbiol. 60, 3096-3104) a gene encoding a *Bacillus*
30 *stearothermophilus* branching enzyme; and Kiel, et al. (1989, Gene 78, 9-17), a gene encoding a branching enzyme from a *Synechococcus* species.

GB 2 095 681 discloses a process for the production of a branching enzyme from *Bacillus* and a method of preparing an
35 improved food product by use of such an enzyme. It is stated that the enzyme may be useful in improving the shelf life of certain food products, including bread.

EP 418 945 discloses a thermostable branching enzyme isolated and cloned from *Bacillus stearothermophilus*. The enzyme is stated to be useful for modification of starch-like materials such as starch, amylose, amylopectin, dextrin, and
5 other polyglucose materials, by introduction of additional branches into said materials. It is stated that the enzyme may be used for the production of food or feed products containing the modified starch-like materials, but no advantages of such use are described or indicated.

10 It is the object of the present invention to provide a novel approach for achieving enzymatic improvements in dough quality and/or the baked product prepared therefrom.

BRIEF DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

15

Accordingly, in a first aspect the present invention relates to a bread-improving and/or a dough-improving composition comprising an effective amount of a branching enzyme.

20 In the present context the terms "bread-improving composition" and "dough-improving composition" are intended to indicate compositions which, in addition to the enzyme component, may comprise other substances conventionally used in baking to improve the properties of dough and/or baked products. Examples of such components are given below.

25 The term "an effective amount" is intended to indicate an amount of enzyme which is sufficient for providing a measurable effect on the parameter of interest. For example, it is an amount resulting in a detectable change of at least one of the properties improved according to the present
30 invention; in particular, at least one of the properties believed to contribute to staling (*vide* the first paragraph of the section Detailed Description of the Invention below).

35 In a second aspect, the present invention relates to a method of preventing or reducing staling of a baked product, which method comprises, in the dough making process, to add an effective amount of a branching enzyme to the dough or dough ingredients and subject the resulting dough to baking under suitable conditions.

As used herein, the properties of dough and/or a baked product prepared from dough said to be improved by the method of the invention includes any property which may be improved by the action of the branching enzyme. Important examples are an
5 increased volume, an improved freshness (in terms of antistaling) and an improved structure and softness, as well as improved organoleptic qualities, of the baked product. Also important is increased dough stability (i.e., a less sticky
10 dough), thereby leading to improved machinability of the dough. The improved machinability is of particular importance in connection with dough which is to be processed industrially. The improved properties may, of course, be evaluated by comparison with dough and/or baked products prepared without addition of DGTase in accordance with the present invention.

15 In still further aspects, the present invention relates to a dough and a baked product, respectively, produced by the present method as well as to a pre-mix comprising an effective amount of a branching enzyme as defined herein or a bread-improving or dough-improving composition of the
20 invention.

In the present context, the term "pre-mix" is intended to be understood in its conventional meaning, i.e. as a mix of baking agents, normally including flour, which may be used
25 not only in industrial bread-baking plants/facilities, but also in retail bakeries.

In a final aspect, the present invention relates to the use of a branching enzyme as defined herein to improve one or more properties of dough and/or a baked product prepared from
30 dough, including (1) preventing or reducing the staling of baked products, in particular, bread; (2) increasing the loaf volume of a baked product; and (3) improving the organoleptic qualities of a baked product.

DETAILED DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

35

According to the literature staling of bread during storage has been described to involve crumb firming, loss of crumb elasticity, reduced slice-ability, reduced palatability

and reduced flavour. All of these changes are believed to be caused by the properties of the starch fraction present in bread. By the modification of the starch fraction which is achieved in accordance with the present invention, it is expected that it will be possible to reduce the staling of baked products substantially.

It is also believed that the modification of the starch fraction by use of the present invention results in increased volume in baked products and improved organoleptic qualities, such as flavour, mouth feel, palatability, aroma and crust colour.

Preferably, the branching enzyme to be used in the present invention is active at a pH in the range of 3 to 7, preferably with a pH optima in the range of 5 to 7. The enzyme may be active during the dough preparation and/or the baking process and it is presently preferred that the enzyme is active during both process steps. Preferably, the enzyme has an optimum activity above 45°C, more preferably above 55°C such as in the range of 45-90°C, and more preferably 55-90°C. It is preferred that the enzyme is inactivated during the baking process.

In addition to the above mentioned properties it may be desirable that the branching enzyme has a substantial oxidation stability since a number of oxidation agents are present in the dough.

It is presently contemplated that the origin of the branching enzyme to be used in the present invention is not critical as long as the enzyme in question has the properties mentioned above. Thus, the branching enzyme may be of any origin, including mammalian, plant and microbial (including bacterial or fungal) origin. Specific examples of branching enzymes contemplated for use in the present invention are the branching enzymes referred to above in the "Background of the Invention" section, in particular the enzyme described in EP 418 945.

The branching enzyme may be obtained from the organism in question by use of any suitable technique, and in particular by use of recombinant DNA techniques as known in the art.

The use of recombinant DNA techniques normally comprises cultivation of a host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA vector capable of expressing and carrying a DNA sequence encoding the enzyme in question, in a culture medium under
5 conditions permitting the expression of the enzyme and recovering the enzyme from the culture. The DNA sequence may be of genomic, cDNA or synthetic origin or any mixture of these, and may be isolated or synthesised in accordance with methods known in the art. The enzyme may also be extracted from the
10 organism or relevant part thereof by which it is produced in nature.

It is presently contemplated that favourable results may be obtained when the branching enzyme is used together with other enzymes. Thus, the bread- and/or dough-improving
15 composition of the invention may comprise one or more additional enzymes. Analogously, such additional enzyme(s) may be added together with the branching enzyme in the methods of the invention. Examples of such additional enzymes are a cellulase; a glycosyltransferase, in
20 particular, 4- α -glucanotransferase (also known as DGTase); a hemicellulase, e.g., a pentosanase such as xylanase (useful for the partial hydrolysis of pentosans which increases the extensibility of the dough); a lipase (useful for the modification of lipids present in the dough or dough consti-
25 tuents so as to soften the dough); an oxidase, e.g. a glucose oxidase; a peroxidase (useful for improving the dough consistency); a protease (useful for gluten weakening, in particular when using hard wheat flour); a peptidase, a transglutaminase and/or an amylolytic enzyme, in particular
30 an amylolytic enzyme without any α -1,4-endo-activity such as an α -1,4-exoglucanase or and α -1,6-endoglucanase, e.g. a β -amylase, an amyloglucosidase, a maltogenic amylase, a cyclodextrin glucanotransferase (CGTase) and the like.

The other enzyme components may be of any origin,
35 including mammalian and plant, and preferably of microbial (including bacterial and fungal) origin. The enzymes may be obtained by conventional techniques used in the art as mentioned above.

A specific example of a DGTase contemplated to be of use in the present invention is the potato DGTase described by Takaha et al., J. Biol. Chem. vol. 268, 1391-1396, 1993. Said reference also discloses the recombinant production of the enzyme in an *Eschericia coli* and a *Bacillus subtilis* host cell.

Also of particular interest are the maltogenic amylase commercially available from Novo Nordisk A/S as Novamyl®, the antistaling agents Stalingase(TM) available from Gist-brocades N.V., Grindamyl MaxLife (TM) and other products of the product line Grindamyl (TM) available from Grindsted Products, products of the product line Veron (TM) available from Röhm GmbH, the glucose oxidase available from Novo Nordisk A/S as Gluzyme®, and the lipase available from Novo Nordisk A/S as Novozym® 677.

Transglutaminase may be used as described in EP 492 406.

The enzyme(s) to be used in the present invention may be in any form suited for the use in question, e.g. in the form of a dry powder or granulate, in particular a non-dusting granulate, a liquid, in particular a stabilised liquid, or a protected enzyme. Granulates may be produced, e.g. as disclosed in US 4,106,991 and US 4,661,452 (both to Novo Industri A/S), and may optionally be coated by methods known in the art. Liquid enzyme preparations may, for instance, be stabilised by adding nutritionally acceptable stabilisers such as a sugar, a sugar alcohol or another polyol, lactic acid or another organic acid according to established methods. Protected enzymes may be prepared according to the method disclosed in EP 238,216.

Normally, for inclusion in pre-mixes or flour it is advantageous that the enzyme(s) is/are in the form of a dry product, e.g. a non-dusting granulate, whereas for inclusion together with a liquid it is advantageously in a liquid form.

In addition or in an alternative to other enzyme components, the dough-improving and/or bread-improving composition may comprise a conventionally used baking agent, e.g. one or more of the following constituents: a milk powder (to provide crust colour), gluten (to improve the gas retention power of

weak flours), an emulsifier (to improve dough extensibility and to some extent the consistency of the resulting bread), granulated fat (for dough softening and consistency of bread), an oxidant (e.g. ascorbic acid, potassium bromate, potassium iodate or ammonium persulfate; to strengthen the gluten structure), an amino acid (e.g. cysteine), a sugar, and salt (e.g. sodium chloride, calcium acetate, sodium sulfate or calcium sulphate; to make the dough firmer), flour or starch. Such components may also be added directly to the dough in accordance with a method of the invention.

Examples of suitable emulsifiers are mono- or diglycerides, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of mono- or diglycerides, sugar esters of fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of fatty acids, lactic acid esters of monoglycerides, acetic acid esters of monoglycerides, polyoxyethylene stearates, phospholipids and lecithin.

The bread-improving and/or dough improving composition of the invention is typically included in the dough in an amount corresponding to 0.01-5%, in particular 0.1-3%.

In accordance with the method of the invention, in which a branching enzyme, optionally in combination with other enzymes as described above, is used for the preparation of dough and/or baked products, the enzyme(s) may be added as such to the mixture from which the dough is made or to any ingredient, e.g. flour, from which the dough is to be made. Alternatively, the enzyme(s) may be added as a constituent of a dough-improving and/or a bread-improving composition as described above, either to flour or other dough ingredients or directly to the mixture from which the dough is to be made.

The dosage of the enzyme(s) to be used in the method of the present invention should be adapted to the nature and composition of the dough in question as well as to the nature of the enzyme(s) to be used. Normally, the enzyme preparation is added in an amount corresponding to 0.01-1000 mg enzyme protein per kg of flour, preferably 0.1-100 mg enzyme protein per kg of flour, more preferably 0.1-10 mg enzyme protein per kg of flour.

In terms of enzyme activity, the appropriate dosage of a given branching enzyme, optionally in combination with other enzyme(s), for exerting a desirable improvement of flour or crust colour of a baked product will depend on the enzyme(s) and the enzyme substrate(s) in question. The skilled person may determine a suitable enzyme unity dosage on the basis of methods known in the art.

When one or more additional enzyme activities are to be added in accordance with the method of the invention, these activities may be added separately or together with the branching enzyme, optionally as constituent(s) of the bread-improving and/or dough-improving composition of the invention. The other enzyme activities may be any of the above described enzymes and may be dosed in accordance with established baking practice.

As mentioned above the branching enzyme, optionally in combination with other enzyme(s) as described above, is added to any mixture of dough ingredients, to the dough, or to any of the ingredients to be included in the dough, in other words the enzyme(s) may be added in any step of the dough preparation and may be added in one, two or more steps, where appropriate.

The handling of the dough and/or baking is performed in any suitable manner for the dough and/or baked product in question, typically including the steps of kneading the dough, subjecting the dough to one or more proofing treatments, and baking the product under suitable conditions, i.e. at a suitable temperature and for a sufficient period of time. For instance, the dough may be prepared by using a normal straight dough process, a sour dough process, an overnight dough method, a low-temperature and long-time fermentation method, a frozen dough method, the Chorleywood Bread process, or the Sponge and Dough process.

The dough and/or baked product prepared by the method of the invention are normally based on wheat meal or flour, optionally in combination with other types of meal or flour such as corn flour, rye meal, rye flour, oat flour or meal, soy flour, sorghum meal or flour, or potato meal or flour.

In the present context the term "baked product" is intended to include any product prepared from dough, either of a soft or a crisp character. Examples of baked products, whether of a white, light or dark type, which may be
5 advantageously produced by the present invention are bread (in particular white, whole-meal or rye bread), typically in the form of loaves or rolls, French baguette-type bread, pita bread, tacos, cakes, pan-cakes, biscuits, crisp bread and the like.

10 The dough of the invention may be of any of the types discussed above, and may be fresh, frozen or pre-baked. The preparation of frozen dough is described by K. Kulp and K. Lorenz in "Frozen and Refrigerated Doughs and Batters".

From the above disclosure, it will be apparent that the
15 dough of the invention is normally a leavened dough or a dough to be subjected to leavening. The dough may be leavened in various ways such as by adding sodium bicarbonate or the like, or by adding a leaven (fermenting dough), but it is preferred to leaven the dough by adding a suitable yeast
20 culture such as a culture of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (baker's yeast). Any of the commercially available *S. cerevisiae* strains may be employed.

As mentioned above, the present invention further relates to a pre-mix, e.g., in the form of a flour composition, for
25 dough and or baked products made from dough, which pre-mix comprises a branching enzyme and optionally other enzymes as specified above. The pre-mix may be prepared by mixing enzyme preparation(s) comprising the relevant enzyme(s) or a bread-improving and/or dough-improving composition of the invention
30 comprising the enzyme(s) with a suitable carrier such as flour, starch, a sugar or a salt. The pre-mix may contain other dough-improving and/or bread-improving additives, e.g., any of the additives, including enzymes, mentioned above.

Techniques which can be used to determine improvements
35 achieved by use of the present invention are described below. The organoleptic qualities mentioned above may be evaluated using procedures well-established in the baking industry, and may include, for example, the use of a panel of trained

taste-testers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

5 Determination of branching enzyme activity

The branching enzyme activity may be determined as described in EP 418 945.

10 Preparation of bread

According to the present invention the effect of adding a DGTase may be tested in doughs and breads as follows:

15 White bread may be prepared from the following basic recipe:

Basic recipe

	Wheat flour	100 %
	Salt	1.5 %
20	Yeast (fresh)	5.0 %
	sugar	1.5 %
	Water	58 %

25 Preparation of bread

Procedure:

1. Dough mixing (Spiral mixer)

3 min. at 625 RPM

3.5 min. at 1250 RPM

30 the mixing time is determined and adjusted by a skilled baker so as to obtain an optimum dough consistence under the testing conditions used.

2. 1st proof: 15 min. at room temperature (about 22 °C), covered by a cloth

35 3. Scaling and shaping;

4. Final proof: 32°C - 82% RH, 55 min.;

5. Baking: 235°C, 22 min. for rolls and 35 min for loaf.

Evaluation of Dough and Baked Products

Dough and baked products may be evaluated as follows:

5 Loaf specific volume: the mean value of 4 loaves volume are measured using the traditional rape seed method. The specific volume is calculated as volume ml per g bread. The specific volume of the control (without enzyme) is defined as 100. The relative specific volume index is calculated as:

$$10 \quad \text{Specific vol. index} = \frac{\text{specific vol. of 4 loaves}}{\text{spec. vol. of 4 control loaves}} * 100$$

15 The dough stickiness and crumb structure: may be evaluated visually according to the following scale:

20 Dough stickiness:
 almost liquid 1
 too sticky 2
 sticky 3
 normal 4
 dry 5

25 Crumb structure:
 very poor 1
 poor 2
 non-uniform 3
 uniform/good 4
 very good 5

30 Staling properties of Baked Products: is determined on bread, e.g. on day 1, 3, 7 and 9 after baking. Evaluation of staleness and texture can be done according to AACC method 74-09.

35 The principles for determination of softness and elasticity of bread crumb are as follows:

- 40 1. A slice of bread is compressed with a constant speed in a texture analyzer, measuring the force for compression in g.
2. The softness of the crumb is measured as the force at 25% compression.

3. The force at 40% compression (P2) and after keeping 40% compression constant for 30 sec. (P3) is measured and the ratio (P3/P2) is the elasticity of the crumb.

CLAIMS

1. A bread-improving or a dough-improving composition comprising an effective amount of a branching enzyme.
5
2. A bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to claim 1, in which the branching enzyme is of plant or microbial origin.
- 10 3. The bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to claim 1, which further comprises an effective amount of another enzyme, such as a cellulase, a hemicellulase, a glycosyltransferase, a pentosanase, a lipase, a peroxidase, an endo-protease, an oxidase, a peptidase, a transglutaminase
15 and/or an amylolytic enzyme.
4. The bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to claim 3, in which the glycosyltransferase is a
20 4- α -glucanotransferase enzyme.
5. The bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to claim 3, in which the amylolytic enzyme is selected from the group consisting of α -amylase, β -amylase, maltogenic α -amylase, amyloglucosidase and CGTase.
25
6. A bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to claim 3, in which the enzyme is of plant or microbial origin.
- 30 7. A bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to any of claims 1-6, which further comprises another bread- or dough-improving agent.
8. A method of improving one or more properties of dough
35 and/or a baked product prepared from dough, which method comprises, in the dough making process, to add an effective amount of a branching enzyme, according to any of claims 1-7, to the dough or dough ingredients and subject the resulting

dough to baking under suitable conditions.

9. The method according to claim 8, in which an effective amount of another enzyme, such as a cellulase, a hemicellulase, a glycosyltransferase, a pentosanase, a lipase, a peroxidase, an endo-protease, an oxidase, a peptidase, a transglutaminase and/or an amylolytic enzyme, is added to the dough or dough ingredients.
10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, in which the enzyme(s) is/are added in the form of a bread-improving or dough-improving composition as defined in any of claims 1-7.
11. The method according to any of claims 8 to 10, in which the branching enzyme is added in an amount corresponding to 0.01-1000 mg enzyme protein per kg of flour.
12. A baked product or a dough prepared by the method according to any of claims 8 to 11.
13. A pre-mix for dough comprising an effective amount of a branching enzyme or a bread-improving or dough-improving composition according to any of claims 1-7.
14. Use of a branching enzyme for improving one or more properties of dough and/or a baked product prepared from dough selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) increasing loaf volume;
 - (b) preventing or reducing staling; and
 - (c) improving organoleptic qualities of a baked product.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 97/00202

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC6: A21D 8/04 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC6: A21D		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2095681 A (KABUSHIKI KAISHA), 6 October 1982 (06.10.82), abstract, example B2 ---	1-14
A	WO 9104669 A1 (NOVO NORDISK A/S), 18 April 1991 (18.04.91), page 3, line 18 - line 23; page 8, line 8 - page 9, line 18 ---	1-14
A	EP 0396162 A1 (UNILEVER NV), 7 November 1990 (07.11.90) ---	1-14
A	EP 0687414 A1 (GIST-BROCADES B.V.), 20 December 1995 (20.12.95) -----	1-14
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